

**Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism
- GO SERV -**

Citizen Corps and CERT Program "Quick Update"

Newsletter Number 5: July 2003

Funding Update

Significant activity is underway regarding Citizen Corps funding. The House of Representatives recently passed its version of the 2004 Citizen Corps/CERT appropriation and the Senate is expected to "mark-up" their version this week. A conference committee will follow to resolve any differences in the two versions.

The House-passed version contains \$25M for Citizen Corps and \$20M for CERT—for a total of \$45M. This is a significant increase over the 2002 Supplemental (\$25M total) and 2003 CERT Appropriation (\$20M).

In regard to implementation and oversight of the programs, the CERT program is being retained in FEMA's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Directorate, and The Citizen Corps program is to be administered by the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP), instead of where it is currently located within EPR. It is possible that the CERT Programs may also be ultimately coordinated by ODP. In a related legislative action, SB 1245 seeks to consolidate grant programs to state and local governments from the executive office of DHS. Citizen Corps and CERT could conceivably become part of the new office that is identified through SB1245, should it become law.

Our current-year funding has been identified and the application process to FEMA is underway. California will receive \$1.49M for CERT Programs in FY03; this is slightly less than the combined Citizen Corps and CERT '02 Supplemental of \$1.66 M.

We had also previously reported that FEMA was pursuing moving a portion of discretionary funds under the President's FY03 Wartime Supplemental Budget to be used for Citizen Corps activities—adding to the already approved '03 CERT funds. No word as yet; we will continue to work aggressively with FEMA Region IX and headquarters in support of this activity.

A reminder: FEMA released supplemental guidance on the use of Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) that allows for optional use of these funds for Citizen Corps and CERT-related activities. For further information, please contact California OES staff.

2003 CERT Guidance

In June, we received the 2003 CERT guidance from FEMA Region IX. We are preparing California's application which is due to them July 15, 2003. Upon FEMA's approval of our submitted application, GO SERV will release its 2003 Guide for Local Governments. **To be considered for the 2003 CERT funding, Operational Areas must complete and submit a Letter of Intent by July 15, 2003 (For more information on the Letter of**

Intent, see our website at: www.goserv.ca.gov in our Grantee Central. Please contact any GO SERV staff for further information on the Letter Of Intent process.

Quarterly Report due July 15, 2003

The first program narrative report is due July 15, 2003. This report will cover the period from your program's inception to June 30, 2003. Some of you will have several months of activity to report others will have less. As you recall, GO SERV waived the first programmatic reporting requirement (due April 15) because most of you were still in the initial stages of program planning and implementation. Thank you in advance for this important document—it is our primary method of documenting to FEMA and others California's Citizen Corps program successes and progress.

Other News

GO SERV Grantee Institute: Rescheduled, now a part of the Fall Governor's Conference

In previous Updates, we announced that GO SERV would host a "Summer Institute" for new Citizen Corps/CERT grantees in July or August. There has been an unavoidable need to change the dates. The training institute will now take place in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism, and Mentoring in early October (see information below). More information is forthcoming about the training. We apologize for this change; however, it was unavoidable due to national developments that continue to impact California's AmeriCorps programs. One of GO SERV's goals has been to aggressively integrate the State's AmeriCorps and Citizen Corps programs. Given the reductions in funding and overall changes for AmeriCorps programs nationwide, more time is required to determine the best approach to support all of GO SERV's grantee agencies and organizations.

The Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring

The Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring will take place October 7-8, 2003 at the Renaissance Hotel in Los Angeles. The conference agenda will include workshops and a "mini plenary track" on "Securing the Homeland with Citizen Engagement." In addition to attending the conference, there are two excellent opportunities to become more involved with this conference through the emergency volunteerism/homeland security theme: 1) Have your organization become a partner or sponsor of the conference; and/or, 2) Serve as a presenter as an expert from the field. To find out more about the Conference in general, or to find out about becoming a partner or sponsor or becoming a workshop presenter, please go to the GO SERV website www.goserv.ca.gov and click on the "2003 Governor's Conference" button. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, then select the "Call for Presenters" link and complete and submit the on-line proposal form. On-line presentation proposals must be submitted to GO SERV by August 1, 2003. Please contact Adam Sutkus on the GO SERV staff directly for more detailed information on the workshop development process.

CERT Train-The-Trainer (T-T-T) Course in Fresno

In June, GO SERV, in partnership with the Los Angeles City Fire Department and Fresno Citizen Corps Council, hosted its second CERT T-T-T course at the American Ambulance Company in Fresno. Twenty participants from eight counties - Fresno, Sacramento, Kern, Stanislaus, Kings, Tulare, Tuolumne and Merced - completed the course. Participants included representatives from Sacramento City Fire Department, Merced Fire Department, Tehachapi City Fire Department, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Madera County Sheriff's Department, Fresno Air National Guard, and several Red Cross chapters from the region.

The instructors were Captain James Harkins and Stacy Gerlich from Los Angeles City Fire Department. Many thanks to the Los Angeles City Fire Department, Fresno Citizen Corps Council and American Ambulance for helping to make this a very successful course. A photograph of the Fresno group will be on GO SERV's website soon.

CERT T-T-T Course Schedule for 2003

GO SERV, in partnership with the Los Angeles City Fire Department and several Operational Areas will offer six additional CERT T-T-T courses during the calendar year. These are the first in a series of T-T-T courses that will help advance CERT in California. GO SERV acknowledges that there is a high demand for this training. If added resources become available, we will sponsor additional courses.

Our aim is to provide an opportunity for each county and the Tribal Nations to participate in one CERT T-T-T course this year, with an average of 35 participants per course. Based on our previous experience, and in response to your feedback and comments, we will not post the CERT T-T-T course schedule on the GO SERV web site, in hopes that this will cut down on inquiries to the counties and GO SERV by non-affiliated individuals. Invitations will be coordinated with and through the sponsoring county for each available course.

The location and dates of the CERT T-T-T courses are as follows:

Fresno City, June 24-26
San Mateo County, July 30-August 1
Mendocino County, August 12-14
Santa Barbara County, September 17-19
Los Angeles County, October (To be announced.)
San Bernadino County, October 20-22
Humboldt County, November 5-7

We will keep you updated on any revisions in the schedule as they occur. Special thanks to the Operational Areas for their support of these trainings. For more information about these trainings, please contact Katrina Rosseini, GO SERV staff, at (916) 445-9944

Medical Reserve Corps: Applications due July 18, 2003

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of the Surgeon General is accepting applications for the 2003 demonstration grant cycle; the application deadline is July 18th. As you may recall, several \$50,000 grants were awarded around the nation in 2002. With the help of California's Department of Health Services (DHS) & Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), we are reviewing and ranking California's applications this year—as we did last year. This supports a more comprehensive viewing and consideration of California applications at the federal level.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention included the Medical Reserve Corps as a fundable activity under its current hospital bioterrorism grants as well. This reflects the importance of these quickly developing local entities to emergency management and homeland security. GO SERV is appreciative of the strong support of California DHS & EMSA in this effort.

If you would like more information on the MRC process, please contact our state partners at EMSA: Norma Shraeder @ (916) 322-4336 X 467 www.medicalreservecorps.gov/

New York City “Mega Cities” Conference

On June 17/18, representatives from Los Angeles city and county, San Francisco and the state participated in FEMA's Citizen Corps conference directed at large urban environments. The 2 day event was active and productive; issues ranging from “grandfathering” neighborhood councils into larger efforts and medical liability for emergency volunteers in medical reserve corps was addressed. Summary notes and finding from the meeting are expected from FEMA soon and will be distributed widely.

Staffing Updates

GO SERV is pleased to welcome Monica Zakeri as a summer intern helping us with various aspects of the Citizen Corps program. Monica attends school at George Mason University in Virginia. Monica will assist with the T-T-T courses, updating our databases, and helping us prepare for the fall Governor's conference. Welcome Monica!

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